

TRANSITION – WHAT IT MEANS FOR PLACES AND PEOPLE

Southampton Labour Regional Econ
Conference

Sara Mahmoud

March 2018



**Learning from a place –
Norfolk and Suffolk**

**Learning from the labour
movement – the Lucas Plan**

Learning from communities



Learning from a place – transition in Norfolk and Suffolk

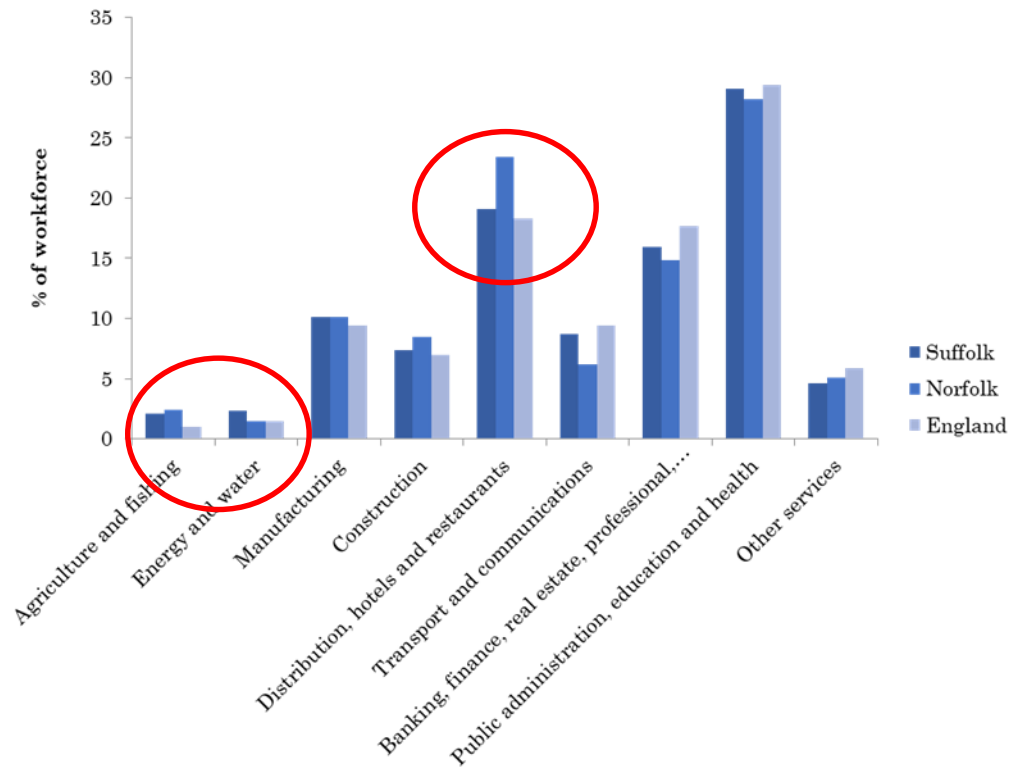
ENVIRONMENT – IMPORTANT TO LOCAL PEOPLE

*“It’s really nice here, it’s a great place, we have a little boy...and I wouldn’t want to bring him up anywhere else because there’s **lots of countryside, lots of fresh air, we live by the sea**, you couldn’t fault it.”*

*“The region’s one of the **top two or three that’s going to be affected** by a whole suite of climate related changes...We also have some very **key infrastructure** in the region, things like the Backton gas terminal, which is on...an eroding coast.”*



ENVIRONMENT – IMPORTANT TO LOCAL LIVELIHOODS

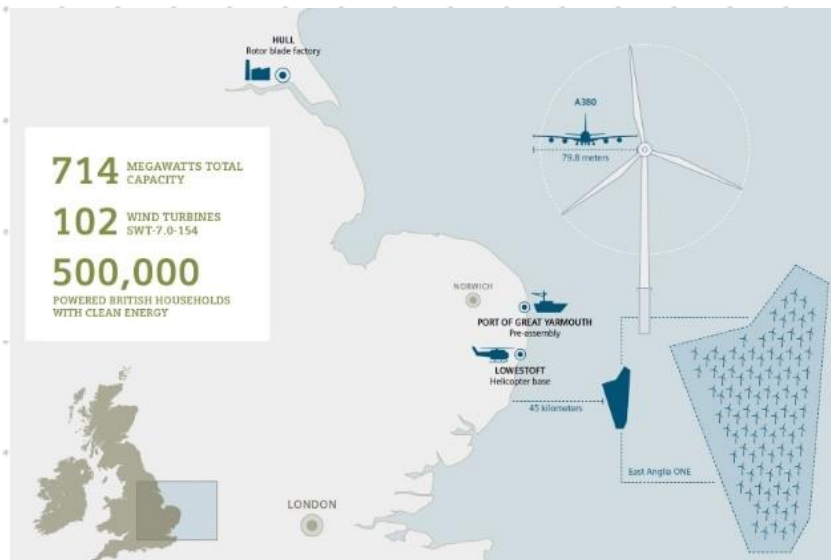


THE 'ENERGY COAST' – FROM OIL & GAS TO WIND

Oil & Gas UK figures show impact of oil price downturn on jobs

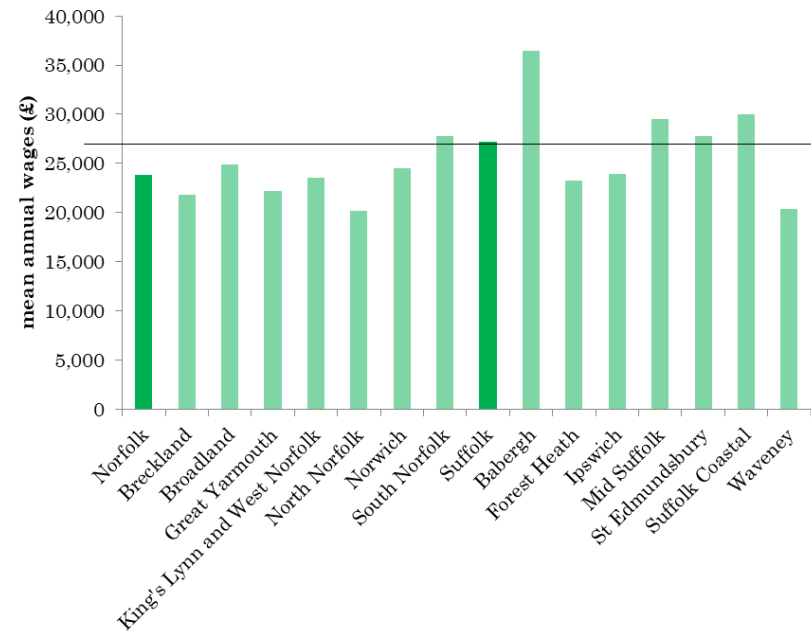
June 10, 2016

Jobs supported by the UK's offshore oil and gas industry, currently under the severe strain of continued low oil prices, will have fallen by the end of 2016 by an estimated 120,000 since their peak in 2014.



- First North Sea gas discovered off East Anglia – now in decline and decommissioning of ageing platforms important
- 70% of UK's offshore wind capacity, huge plans for wind farms like East Anglia ONE project
- Nuclear power also – Sizewell B, Sizewell A currently being decommissioned

EXISTING REALITY – LOW PAY, INEQUALITY



EXISTING REALITY – MANUFACTURING IN FREE FALL

Delphi Diesel Systems plant in Sudbury to close

4 August 2017

f t b e Share



Delphi is one of Sudbury's biggest employers

An engineering firm is to close a plant in Suffolk with the loss of 520 jobs by mid-2020.

Confirmed: Britvic will close its Norwich factory

Mark Shields mark.shields@archant.co.uk @mark_shields

PUBLISHED: 16:57 15 December 2017 | UPDATED: 09:23 16 December 2017



Entrance to the Norwich Britvic factory. Picture: Nick Butcher

Britvic has confirmed the closure of its Norwich factory, leading to the loss of more than 230 jobs in the city.

Problems.....

- High impact of climate change
- Declining 'dirty' energy industry
- Declining manufacturing
- Poor quality and poorly paid jobs

Solution.....?



We will aim to maximise UK businesses' share of the global markets as they are transformed by the shift to clean growth, and make our country one of the best places in the world to develop and sell clean technologies.



Source: Steven James Fosdick

BUT

LACK OF INFRASTRUCTURE

“**Decommissioning** ...there is a danger that the work will go to firms abroad in Belgium or Holland. It should be done here. **Barriers to that happening are things like heavy lift vessels...the UK doesn't have any.**”

OWNERSHIP

“Foundations, towers, turbines are **manufactured in Germany**. Siemens have a blade factory in Hull. Other parts are coming from China, Spain, Italy, Germany, Poland, **brought over into the ports and then taken out into sea for installation.**”

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SKILLS MISMATCH

“There's **a need for engineers....the further education system** recognises that but is still turning out people for a 20th century economy.”

WHAT ABOUT EXISTING WORKERS?

*“There’s a lot of people who couldn’t cope with, for example, **shift work**. They couldn’t cope with a relative amount of **monotony**, that sort of environment that we work in. So I think if you’re used to that...you can **take that in to another manufacturing environment...**”*



Source: USDA

*“I **couldn’t go back** and go in to college or anything like that and not earn any money, I would **have to go and earn** some money somewhere, **otherwise I lose my house**”.*

UNIONS – A DIFFICULT POSITION

*“It’s a question of where are you now and **how can we start along the journey of reducing environmental impact.** There’s nothing more guaranteed to **put people’s backs up** than saying you work in a bad industry and you need to work in this good industry. It’s an **ill-defined and emotional concept.**”*

- But this can lead to some unhelpful positions too...

Stuart Fegan, GMB National Officer for Energy said:

“Once again we see the folly of leaving our energy needs in the hands of foreign governments and companies.

“Unless we shore up our own energy security we leave ourselves at the whims of dictators, despots, and unpredictable hikes in wholesale prices.

“At the same time to make sure we can keep the lights on, the UK needs a balanced energy mix including nuclear, renewables, and the necessary exploration of onshore shale gas wells.”

LEARNING FROM THE LABOUR MOVEMENT

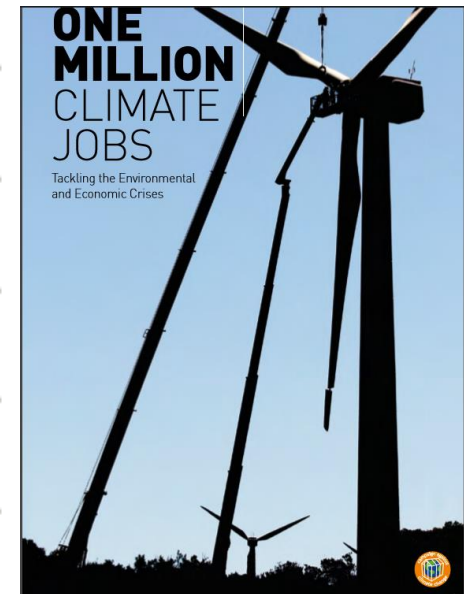
THE LUCAS PLAN

- Response to announcement of job cuts in the face of globalisation and tech change in the mid-70s
- Argued that production funded by public money should shift from arms industry to more socially useful stuff
- Thought about how to make sure workers didn't end up losing their skills

ONE MILLION CLIMATE JOBS

- More recently, well thought out call for one million climate jobs from union organisations such as PCS, TSSA, TUC, UCU, UNITE

www.cacctu.org.uk



LEARNING FROM COMMUNITIES



- Supporting small-scale fishing with lower environmental impact
- Promised facilities from a developer building housing on a quay being used by fishing community that never happened
- NEF used a Community Economic Development approach to help get grant funding to buy land for a processing unit that empowers fishermen to sell to local businesses

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GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION



*“There **isn’t always a good connection** between institutions and organisations that are actually trying to deliver sustainable development.”*

*“This has to include business in some way but this needs to include people with no personal interest. Maybe **ordinary people** on the street, people like us.”*

*“[LEPs] **need to engage [unions] but also third sector organisations...and really create a consensus** around what the future looks like. LEPs just **do not have the capacity** to do that....because they come together as boards...they typically have a fairly **small executive team** and...it’s really through the executive team that these people make things happen on a day to day basis. They’re **too busy** dealing with public funding that’s been devolved to them but still carries **heavy caveats.**”*